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FAX RECEIVED

April 8, 2002

APR 08 2002

703-305-3597

GROUP 3600

U.S. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Box Fee Amendment
Washington, DC 20231

Official

RE: U.S. Application Serial No: 246,438
Applicants: JERRY C. SOCIER, ET AL
Title: MULTI-BRANCH FITTING AND METHOD OF FABRICATING

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is Amendment to the above-identified Patent Application.

The Claim Fee is as follows:

8 Independent claims cancelled
10 Independent claims added

2 Independent claims 2 x \$42 = \$ 84.00

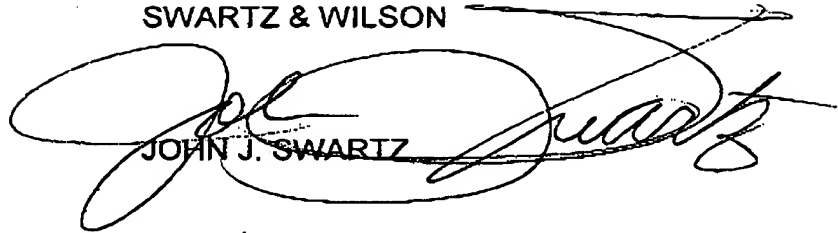
A check for \$336.00 has been filed with the patent office with the communication and proposed Amendment dated January 19, 2002, and filed on February 12, 2002. The proposed Amendment dated January 19, 2002, was not entered and the patent office retained the \$336.00. Kindly apply a portion of this \$336.00 toward the \$84.00 claim fee.

Applicant hereby Petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for reply to the office action dated December 13, 2001, for two (2) months from March 13, 2002, to May 13, 2002. The Fee of \$200 is covered by the aforementioned check of \$336.00 filed with the Patent Office on February 12, 2002. After subtracting the \$84.00 claim fee and the \$200.00 extension fee from the \$336.00, kindly return the overpayment of \$52.00 to applicant's attorney.

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Yours very truly,

SWARTZ & WILSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John J. Swartz', is written over the printed name 'JOHN J. SWARTZ'.

JOHN J. SWARTZ

JJS/skm

Enclosures

cc: Jerry Socier (w/enclosure)

I hereby certify. that this correspondence including two pages plus the attached Amendment comprising 13 pages is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 305-3597) on April 8, 2002.

STACY K. McCLURE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stacy K. McClure', is written over the printed name 'STACY K. McCLURE'.